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Newsletter

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ROMANIA - BULGARIA

Interreg



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This edition of the newsletter presents the progress made in implementing the **Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme** and the most important events that took place in 2020.

Implementation Stage of Interreg V-A Romania–Bulgaria Programme

- ⇒ in 2020 the contracting of all projects was finalized. Until now there were contracted **172 projects** with a total value of 275,19 million euro, representing 115,34% of the Programme budget out of which 4 were contracted in 2020 with a total value of 10,49 million euro
- ⇒ a number of **104 projects** are already finalized, out of which 34 during 2020 and **65 projects** are in implementation
- ⇒ payments amounting at **121,18 million euro** were made, representing **46,87%** from the Programme budget out of which **37,71 million euro** in 2020, the status of the payments made to Romanian partners is published and constantly updated on the website of MPWDA <https://www.mlpda.ro/pages/plati>.
- ⇒ the current absorption rate is **35,10%** from the Programme ERDF allocation, approximately 75,71 million euro were requested from the European Commission through applications for intermediary payments out of which approximately 18,49 million in 2020
- ⇒ the absorption target for 2020, of 34 million euro, has been achieved and even exceeded
- ⇒ the annual implementation report for 2019 was accepted by the European Commission



Implementation Stage of Interreg V-A Romania–Bulgaria Programme



In 2020, in order to combat the effects generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the management structures took the following measures in support of the projects:

- ⇒ were financed projects which had as an objectives interventions in the field of health (including the endowment of hospitals in border regions), reduction of risks in emergency situations and development of integrated tourism projects, a field severely affected by the current pandemic.
- ⇒ as a support measure for the beneficiaries, all projects had the opportunity to request suspension during the pandemic. Thus, out of 67 projects implemented in 2020, only 3 requested suspension.
- ⇒ the program is implemented digitally, so that all documents were transmitted via its own electronic system (eMS), including using the electronic signature.



Preparation of the Interreg VI-A Program Romania -Bulgaria 2021-2027



Regarding the preparation of the next program for the period 2021-2027, in 2020 the following important steps have been taken:

- ⇒ It was decided, by consensus, by the Joint Programming Group, to maintain the role of the structures from the current programming period, so that the Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration will continue to fulfill the role of Managing Authority
- ⇒ The objectives that will benefit from funding from the future program have been selected, namely Objective 3 (A connected Europe) and Objective 5 (A Europe closer to the citizens)
- ⇒ The call for strategic project ideas for Objective 3 (A Connected Europe) has been launched, with a deadline 25th of November 2020
- ⇒ A transparent selection process has been launched for the Romanian members who will be part of the Coordination Committee of the Integrated Strategy, which will be funded through the future program, under Objective 5 (A Europe closer to the citizens), with a deadline of submission 13th of November 2020
- ⇒ The first version of the new program was launched in public consultation with a deadline for comments December 15, 2020
- ⇒ The Managing Authority is also involved in the implementation of the Pilot Project dedicated to involving citizens in the implementation of the European Union cohesion policy, financed by the EC, in which we received technical assistance from experts from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in regard of improvement and introduction of new initiatives for citizens participation in the development and implementation of the future program

Information and Promotion Events

In 2020, the following information and promotion events were organized:

- ⇒ **an event to celebrate Europe Day - May 9**, which consisted of the development and online promotion of a film dedicated to Europe Day
- ⇒ **4 thematic meetings** dedicated to the beneficiaries regarding the implementation rules at project level, organized online on 6th and 7th of July 2020, respectively on 8th and 9th of December 2020
- ⇒ In **September 2020**, were organized activities to celebrate the European Cooperation Day 2020 and the Interreg 30 event: online competition for the culinary promotion of favorite recipes and activities for the installation of birdhouses in schoolyards by students
- ⇒ **7th of October 2020**- Annual Conference of the Programme organized online
- ⇒ **8th of October 2020**- on site visit for the project ROBG-408 “Targeted efforts for improving road infrastructure in the cross border area”, organized online



Important meetings of decision-making structures



- ⇒ **16th of September 2020-** the second meeting of the Joint Programming Group for the Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Program 2021-2027 was organized online
- ⇒ **15th of December 2020-** the 12th meeting of Monitoring Committee for Interreg V-A Romania–Bulgaria Programme was held online



Managing Authority for the Interreg V-A Romania–Bulgaria Programme

Managing Authority

Ministry of Public Works, Development and
Administration, Romania
16 Libertatii Blvd., North Side, sector 5, 050706,
Bucharest
www.interregrobg.eu
www.mdrap.ro
Tel: +40 372 111 369
Fax: +40 372 111 456
Email: robg@mdrap.ro

National Authority

Ministry of Regional Development and Public
Works, Bulgaria
17-19 St. Kiril and Metodii str.,
1202, Sofia
www.interregrobg.eu
www.mrrb.government.bg
Tel: +359 2 94 05 697, +359 2 94 05 302,
Fax: +359 2 9405 486
Email: NA-RO-BG@mrrb.government.bg

Joint Secretariat/Cross Border Cooperation Regional Office
Calarasi for Romania–Bulgaria Border
2 Chiciului str., Calarasi, Romania, part of the main building representing
the Passengers and Goods River Transport Public Service headquarters at
CBCP Calarasi (Romania) - Silistra (Bulgaria)
www.interregrobg.eu
Tel: +40 242 313 091
Fax: +40 242 313 092
Email: info@calarasi.ro
helpdesk_robg@calarasicbc.ro

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